

Happy 220th Birthday, LOC!

BY NEELY TUCKER AND BRETT ZONGKER

The Library got its start on April 24, 1800, with a modest \$5,000 appropriation. John Adams was the president. The capital was in Philadelphia. The first batch of books, 740 volumes and three maps, had to be ordered from London. The national population was 5.3 million. There was no Library building.

What a difference a couple of centuries – and 20 years – can make.

The Library is celebrating its 220th birthday through next week, now as the largest library in world history. It's a remarkable achievement. But the COVID-19 pandemic has muted much of public life across the nation in these strange weeks. All library buildings are closed. Yet our online and digital resources are as available to the world as ever, and staff from across the Library have lined up fascinating things for the public – and colleagues – to do.

Great things are scheduled all week. There are plenty of things for kids at our Engage! page (www.loc.gov/engage), outlined in the story to the right in this Gazette issue.

But the most exciting thing may be an opportunity for music-makers and music-lovers everywhere: A chance to play with Citizen DJ (<https://go.aws/2KuWyuR>)! It's a new, groundbreaking project that inspires hip-hop music-making and opens new doors into the Library's extensive audio collections.

Technically speaking, it's an open-source web-browser application created by Brian Foo, one of the

BIRTHDAY, CONTINUED ON 6



Shawn Miller

Author Jason Reynolds' *Grab the Mic* is among the new literary initiatives launched this month by the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement.

Literary Programs Engage Users Remotely

The Library is reaching out to the public with online content during the pandemic.

BY GUY LAMOLINARA

Even though the Library has closed its doors to users for the time being, there is no shortage of ways in which the public can access our extraordinary resources. Offices within the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE) have transformed the current closure to address the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic into an opportunity to launch new, topical online programs as well as high-light content already available on loc.gov.

If you have school-age kids, most likely they are at a loss for activi-

ties. Parents are looking for ways to keep their children occupied with educational, yet fun, things to do.

Authors Dav Pilkey and Jason Reynolds to the rescue.

Pilkey, of Captain Underpants and Dog Man fame, has teamed up with the Library to offer a three-times-a-week series that includes new videos created specifically for the Library as well as other content, available through the new portal www.loc.gov/engage.

The "Engage!" page was launched recently as a gateway to the

CLLE, CONTINUED ON 7

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at (202) 707-0033.

Sharif Adenan
Lynette Brown
Eric Clark
Sharron Jones

Terri Harris-Wandix
Adam Rosenberg
Donna Williams

KLUGE STAFF FELLOWSHIP: APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Kluge Center has extended the application deadline for its staff fellowship to May 1 because of workplace changes caused by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

The Kluge Center supports scholarly research at the Library in the humanities and social sciences and in related fields, such as law and architecture. The center's staff fellowship offers a Library staff member the opportunity to conduct independent research using the Library's collections. The fellow joins influential senior scholars and promising national and international postdoctoral researchers in residency at the center.

What are the terms of the appointment?

The staff fellow is detailed to the Kluge Center for the duration of the fellowship.

Who is eligible?

Library staff members with permanent or indefinite status and five years of continuous service can apply. Staff can hold the fellowship only once in any seven-year period.

Are salary and benefits maintained?

Yes. The fellow is compensated at the level equivalent to his or her current salary, and benefits and leave are maintained.

Is a fellow's current job retained?

Yes. The fellow maintains a lien on his or her present position.

Apply online: www.loc.gov/staff/kluge/

GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

Library of Congress Gazette

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ISSN 1049-8184

Printed by the Printing Management Section

GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the May 8 Gazette is Wednesday, April 29.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

**Read the Gazette in color
at loc.gov/staff/gazette**

From Awareness to Action

INNOVATE FOR A GREEN FUTURE

Wednesday, April 29, 2020
11 AM — 12 NOON

An Online Event
Register online at copyright.gov/copyrightmatters/green-future2020/

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Request ADA accommodations five business days in advance at ada@loc.gov.
Contact copyrightoutreach@copyright.gov for more information.



Pandemic Response, Library Operations Continue

All scheduled public events at the Library are canceled through July 1.

The Library has been closed to the public for more than a month now, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden pointed out in her April 16 video address to staff. During that time, the Library has fine-tuned its response to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic as more information has become available, helping to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission among staff and the public.

As part of that response, the Library last week announced that all public events scheduled at the Library through July 1 are canceled and that Library buildings will remain closed for the time being to all except staff conducting critical work. Decisions about reopening buildings will be made in consultation with Sandra Charles, the Library's chief medical officer, and based on public health guidance.

Despite these disruptions, the Library's work has continued, much of it remotely through an expanded telework program.

"Each week, we have rolled out new programs, resources, had collaborations. We have been working very hard, and you have been vital to all of it," Hayden told staff.

This Gazette issue features an article highlighting new and expanded online programs introduced by the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement since the beginning of the pandemic.

In addition, the Congressional Research Service has published more than 100 reports related to the pandemic and its economic, social and legal impact. The reports are supporting the work of Congress as the pandemic evolves and are also available to the public on Congress.gov.

The Law Library continues to

update its resource guide (<https://go.usa.gov/xvNrG>) to U.S. and international laws, regulations and executive actions with respect to COVID-19 and its spread.

And Charles and her team in the Health Services Division (HSD) are closely monitoring health information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, advising the Library and its staff about measures necessary to address the pandemic and stay safe.

As of April 24, five new cases of COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 have been reported to HSD, bringing the total number of staff cases to 27. Of those, 17 staff members have recovered, while 10 still have symptoms or are in quarantine. Because the five newly reported cases involve employees who have not been in the Library in over 30 days, contact tracing has not been necessary.

"I want to send thoughts and prayers to anyone who has been affected personally by COVID-19," Hayden said. "We are all thinking of you."

In the cases identified, HSD is communicating with ill staff members. In applicable cases, it is also notifying their close work contacts and cleaning and disinfecting areas in the Library where the staff members were present. The same

process is being followed when contractors in Library buildings become ill.

The Library is also communicating with the U.S. Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol to identify cases in which their employees working in Library buildings have developed symptoms of COVID-19 or been diagnosed with it. The Library is following cleaning and disinfecting procedures in those cases as well.

Also as part of its pandemic response, the Library extended through pay period 9 (ending May 9) the time in which staff members can use administrative leave to address family care related to COVID-19 (<https://go.usa.gov/xvN25>). And it made available by telephone (202-707-0972) a recording of the daily all-staff communications about Library operations. The message, accessible by pressing 1, will be updated every weekday afternoon. An archive will not be available, so staff members should plan to call each day to hear updates.

The Library's daily all-staff updates, details about the Library's response to the pandemic and resources for staff are available on the intranet at (<https://go.usa.gov/xdtV5>) and on a public-facing staff page the Library created (<https://go.usa.gov/xdtVQ>) to assist staff who do not have remote access to the Library's network. ■

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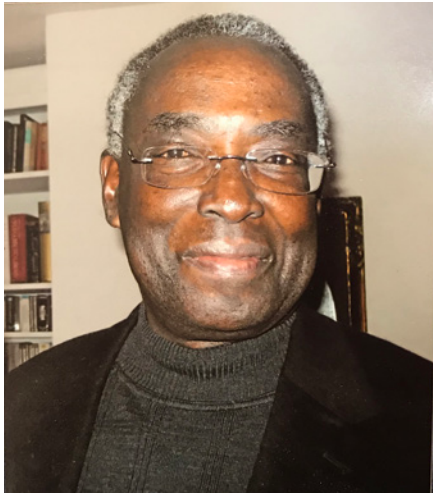
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Sheridan Harvey

Josephus Nelson

Josephus Nelson, a longtime and much-admired Library staff member, died on April 11 in Washington, D.C. He was 77. His Library career spanned more than four decades and encompassed positions in multiple service units. He retired in 2016.

Nelson was born in Henning, Tennessee, in 1942 and moved to Detroit at age 10. After graduating from high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force and then earned a B.A. in English from Wayne State University; an M.S. in library science from the University of Michigan; and an M.A. in English history from the University of Oxford. He loved England and its history and culture, traveled there frequently and built a large personal library devoted to English history and the royal family.

Nelson joined the Library staff in 1972 as a reference specialist in the Congressional Research Service (CRS). His subsequent positions included team leader in CRS' Reference Center; supervisory librarian and head of the Main Reading Room; reference specialist in British history and English literature in the General Reading Room Division; research specialist in the Development Office; research assistant and special assistant in the Office of the Librarian; research specialist in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division; curator of the Library of Con-

gress Collection in the Manuscript Division; and special assistant to the associate librarian for Library Services. Nelson also served as recommending officer for British history and English literature.

Former Deputy Librarian Robert Newlen recalls Nelson as his "go-to librarian" for anything related to English history. "His expertise was especially invaluable during the Library's celebration of the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in 2014," Newlen said. "His poise, professionalism and wonderful sense of humor are the things I will remember most about him."

Library of Congress historian John Cole said he remembers Nelson for his deep and abiding interest in the Library's history, citing an article Nelson wrote about the history of the Library's archival collection; a book he wrote and compiled with Judith Farley, "Full Circle: Ninety Years of Service in the Main Reading Room"; and a staff oral history program he planned and carried out with support from the Madison Council.

Other books by Nelson include "Delightful Places: A Book Tour of English Country Homes and Gardens" (1984); "Great Houses and Their Treasures: A Bibliographic Guide" (1986); "England Discovered: Libraries, Museums and Stately Homes" (1994); "Take Choice of All My Library: A Bookman's Tour of French Libraries" (1994); and "Lively Company: Americans in Late Eighteenth-Century Paris" (1995).

Reminiscing about Nelson last week, colleagues described him as highly intelligent, gentlemanly, dignified, generous and dryly humorous. Roberta Shaffer, former associate librarian for Library Services and law librarian of Congress, said she took to calling him "Lord Nelson" partly as a reference to an important figure in British history (Admiral Horatio Nelson), but mostly because, to her, Nelson epitomized the best qualities of a gentleman.

Outside the Library, Nelson was active in the St. Augustine's Epis-

copal Church in southwest Washington, D.C., where he served as lay eucharistic minister and lay reader and coordinated the annual Thurgood Marshall Feast Day. He also participated in a Bible study group and a book club and enjoyed going to the theater and dining with friends.

Nelson is survived by a sister and her children, other relatives, two godchildren and many friends. A memorial service for him will be held at the St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in the future. ■

ALL-STAFF UPDATES BY PHONE, PERSONAL EMAIL

Staff members who do not have internet access can hear a recording of the daily all-staff communication about Library operations during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic by calling (202) 707-0972 and pressing 1. The phone line is updated every weekday afternoon once the daily all-staff message is ready. Calls are not archived, so staff should check the line every afternoon.

In addition, a form was distributed for completion by staff who have internet access at home but who do not have access to their Library email accounts, so they can receive the daily all-staff emails. Staff who do not have access to their Library email accounts are encouraged to contact their supervisors to receive a link to the form.

NEED HELP?

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) remains ready to assist Library staff during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. Its services are free and confidential and include counseling and referral services. Call (202) 707-6389, option 3, Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or (800) 869-0276 at other times. The service is available around the clock.



Sara El Hashem

Paula Mills

Paula Mills is a program specialist in the Security and Emergency Preparedness Directorate of the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.

Tell us a little about your background.

I grew up in New England and moved to the Washington, D.C., area from a seacoast town of 3,000 residents in Maine where we actually do say “chowdah and lobstah,” and the letter R is absent from many of our other word pronunciations.

I attended nursing school but decided it was just not for me and chose instead to be an emergency medical technician, which eventually led to employment in the nurse’s office at a New Hampshire regional high school. Immediately before coming to the Library, I was the secretary for one of Maine’s largest charity organizations and assisted in processing and providing grants.

What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?

When my best friend, who coincidentally is also my husband, was offered a position at the Pentagon, our family moved to Maryland. I was selected for a position in the Copyright Office and later joined the Security and Emergency Preparedness Directorate (SEPD), where I work as a program specialist alongside a tremendously dedicated group of people. Our mission is to ensure the safety and security of Library staff, visitors and researchers as well as the security of the Library’s collections. No day is ever the same, and the opportunity to learn something new is ever-present. My work focuses on procurement, administration, liaison with the U.S. Capitol Police, National Book Festival preparations and oversight of the Library’s property pass program.

How has the coronavirus pandemic changed your work?

I was telework capable but an infrequent teleworker before the pandemic necessitated changes to our work schedules and spaces. I have been able to accomplish the majority of my duties remotely. Connectivity issues can sometimes be frustrating, but then I get in touch with the true heroes of our telework success: the service desk of the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Its analysts have been a priceless resource, and never once have I detected a tone of frustration from any one of them.

How are you adjusting generally to the “new normal”?

I know we are calling all the challenges and changes everyone is working through a new normal, but I am not quite seeing it that way. Nothing about what we have been going through seems normal to me. So many of the activities I enjoy in life have been curtailed – shopping, interacting face-to-face

with colleagues at work, holding family dinners. I miss hugging my children and friends. I understand very well the necessity of employing social distancing, working remotely from home and wearing a mask if I am feeling brave enough to venture into a store during the new “elderly hours” I qualify to use. All that considered, I pray that we will be able to leave the new normal behind us, and we can all return, at least to a degree, to the old normal.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I look forward to cooking – it helps me unwind, and I truly believe my stove is an unpaid therapist. Cleaning house, reading, training our two new Quaker parrots and playing with our puppy, Echo, are also on the list. I have also had fun remodeling our home, doing what I can myself by changing out plugs, light switches and fixtures, and working with tile.

In our blended family of six children, my most important job and source of greatest enjoyment has been celebrating the children’s achievements with them as well as listening to their challenges and trying to help them work out the “bumps” encountered along the way.

What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

Most of my co-workers are unaware that I used to own a restaurant that featured Arabic and Mediterranean fare. The challenge to making this venture a success was that I am of Irish descent and needed to learn how to prepare menu offerings I could not even pronounce at the time! Nevertheless, through the tutelage of many good friends, the restaurant eventually earned a reputation as one of the area’s best ethnic eateries. ■

Preservation Week Goes Online This Year

Most years, the Preservation Directorate hosts tours and public lectures during Preservation Week to highlight preservation methods to safeguard collections in the nation's libraries and museums and materials held by individuals and communities.

This week, Preservation Week takes place from April 26 to May 2 (<https://bit.ly/3czy8fs>). The Library's buildings are closed to address the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. As an alternative to in-person events, the Preservation Directorate is this year offering online webinars in its Topics in Preservation series aimed at a professional audience – librarians, archivists and museum staff.

Library staff are invited to view the hourlong webinars at <http://LOCPreservation.eventbrite.com> or on Webex through the links provided below.

Keeping it Cool – Designing the Gutenberg Bible Display Case April 27, 11 a.m.

Elmer Eusman, chief of the Conservation Division, and Nancy

Lev-Alexander, head of the Collection Stabilization Section, will speak about the design and functioning of the Library's new purpose-built display case for its Gutenberg Bible.

Webex: <https://bit.ly/34TFJDj>

Developing an Off-Site Storage Facility April 28, 11 a.m.

Steve Herman, chief of the Collection Management Division; Rohn Roache, supervisory librarian; and Lev-Alexander will discuss the Library's experience in using commercial warehouse space for interim storage in a way that controls costs without compromising on collections care.

Webex: <https://bit.ly/3arBLTq>

Assessing the Condition of the National Collection April 29, 11 a.m.

Fenella France, chief of the Preservation Research and Testing Division, will speak about an ongoing national research initiative to assess the condition of books held in U.S. libraries by analyzing a

representative sample of holdings from five different research libraries.

Webex: <https://bit.ly/34UyOdh>

Materials Testing April 30, 11 a.m.

Eric Monroe, supervisory physical scientist, will discuss challenges to preserving the national collection that arise from risks inherent in the collections and from materials in their environment. The webinar will describe the Library's quality-assurance program, which analyzes all materials that come into contact with collections.

Webex: <https://bit.ly/2KpmXud>

Saving Your Games May 1, 11 a.m.

Amanda May, digital conservation specialist; David Gibson, processing technician; and Laura Davis, project specialist, will talk about how interactive media such as software applications, time-based artwork and video games present unique acquisition, description and preservation challenges.

Webex: <https://bit.ly/3br5HAL> ■

BIRTHDAY, CONTINUED FROM 1

Library's 2020 innovators in residence, working in partnership with LC Labs. Using some of the Library's free-to-use audio and moving-image collections, Citizen DJ lets users select samples to create their own beats and sound mixes. It's a great way for musicians, students and researchers to make discoveries in the Library's vast collections.

While the project is scheduled to officially launch this summer, Foo said early public testing will help make a better final product.

"My goal is to develop a simple way to discover ... public-domain audio and video material for music-making so that generations of artists and producers can use

it to maximize their creativity," Foo said. "That's what Citizen DJ is all about – an easy-to-use tool that unlocks the amazing treasures in the Library."

The sound collections in Citizen DJ are copyright free and can be used however users wish. The clips come from musical performances, theater productions, interviews, speeches, oral histories and ambient sound recordings. Foo is working with Library staff to add more samples.

"It's my hope that digital projects like Citizen DJ can offer musicians ample new creative material at no cost," Foo said. He added that as the world navigates the COVID-19 pandemic, "It's fitting to remember that music is something that has the power to bring all people

together, even when we physically need to be apart."

The Citizen DJ demo takes about 15 minutes to complete. User testing is open until May 15. To stay up-to-date on Citizen DJ when it goes live, subscribe to LC Labs email updates (<https://go.usa.gov/xvnHv>).

It's probably not the sort of thing John Adams imagined happening at the Library in the spring of 1800. But as Samuel Morse famously asked in his first telegraph message (which also resides at the Library): "What hath God wrought?"

For a listing of all 220 birthday events, visit the Library's Engage (www.loc.gov/engage) page. ■

CLLE, CONTINUED FROM 1

Library's many new digital program initiatives.

CLLE program specialist Deziree Arnaiz has been organizing "For Kids: Dav Pilkey at Home" in collaboration with his publisher, Scholastic. Every Friday, new videos from Pilkey launch; on Mondays and Wednesdays, content from the Library's website is presented as part of "For Families: Explore the Library of Congress," which Pilkey introduces by video.

"The first thing featured from the Library's collections was a video of former poet laureate Juan Felipe Herrera 'jabberwalking' his way through the Library," Arnaiz said.

"We are thrilled that Dav has agreed to work with us on reaching his millions of fans with videos and other features produced especially for the Library," said Marie Arana, the Library's literary director. "We want to keep kids – and adults, too – engaged with the Library during this period of uncertainty."

Arana's team is working with staff across the Library to make such programs a reality. The Learning and Innovation and the Informal Learning and Engagement Design offices within CLLE as well as the Communications Office, the Multimedia Group and others have played critical roles in producing them.

"The focus of our center is on reaching the public with useful and educational content from the Library," said Shari Werb, CLLE's director. "Even though we temporarily cannot hold programs in Library buildings, we want to continue to fulfill our mission of showcasing great writers and the great collections of our institution."

Jason Reynolds, the new national ambassador for young people's literature, is one of those writers. He just released on loc.gov/engage his monthly newsletter, called "Grab the Mic," and his twice-weekly video series, "Write. Right. Rite."

Through the series, Reynolds is sharing "his passion for storytelling while discussing topics like

creativity, connection and imagination," said Anya Creightney, the program specialist leading the project.

Reynolds describes it as "the express-yourself-the-way-you-want-to ritual" that he wants young people to form a habit of doing.

Anne Holmes of the Poetry and Literature Center, and the center's director, Rob Casper, have been working on a yet another project with the Washington Post in honor of National Poetry Month, which takes place every April.

In conversation with Post book critic Ron Charles, poet laureate Joy Harjo and former laureates Robert Pinsky, Natasha Trethewey and Juan Felipe Herrera are sharing "their poetry and their thoughts" in the newly conceived series, "The Poetry of Home," said Casper.

Harjo launched the series on April 10, followed by Pinsky on April 17. Trethewey will appear on April 24 and Herrera on May 1.

Holmes is also overseeing a feature aimed at adult booklovers called "For Book Lovers: Best of the National Book Festival," which points to presentations and interviews from the more than 2,000 webcasts available from the first festival in 2001 to the most recent in 2019.

Mondays feature topical non-fiction; Tuesdays, literary fiction and poetry; Wednesdays, history, biography or memoir; Thursdays, popular genre fiction; and Fridays, books for children and teens. Upcoming videos will highlight

David Brooks, Margaret Atwood, Bob Woodward, Louise Penny and Jacqueline Woodson, Holmes said.

The National Book Festival Presents series is also continuing virtually. This is the same series that has brought to the Coolidge Auditorium programs on the legacy of Rosa Parks and Irish American women as well as authors Pilkey, Reynolds, Harjo, Neil Patrick Harris, Brad Meltzer, Alexander McCall Smith, Edwidge Danticat, Andre Aciman and Karen Armstrong.

On April 7, John M. Barry, author of "The Great Influenza: The Story of the Deadliest Pandemic in History," spoke virtually with David Rubenstein, National Book Festival co-chairman, about the 1918 influenza pandemic, how the world responded and lessons to be learned during the present COVID-19 crisis. The video is now available online.

Future NBF Presents programs will feature the Library's John Hessler on mapping the great pandemics from Columbus to COVID-19; David Quammen on his book "Spillover: Animal Infections and the Next Human Pandemic"; Karl Taro Greenfeld on his book "The China Syndrome: The True Story of the 21st Century's First Pandemic"; and other prominent authors discussing pandemics and history.

"The offices within CLLE have risen to the occasion," said Werb. "The current situation has opened us up to new ways to engage our users."

Added Arana, "We have been busy as ever planning and coordinating these virtual programs. The team has adapted beautifully to the new reality." ■

HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

It is important to report any technical issues you experience to the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). The OCIO service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.

OCIO has developed fact sheets and frequently asked questions to help teleworkers accomplish their work. They are available on the Library's public-facing web page (<https://go.usa.gov/xdTVQ>) in the technology resources section.